

GENERAL GEORGE STONEMAN.

FEBRUARY 19, 1889.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HOOKER, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 11761.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11761) for the relief of General George Stoneman, submit the following report:

The military services of General Stoneman are very distinguished, as shown by the following record:

Regular Army; graduate of West Point, July 24, 1846; brevet second lieutenant, First Dragoons. July 12, 1847, second lieutenant, First Dragoons. July 25, 1854, first lieutenant, First Dragoons. March 3, 1855, captain Second Cavalry. May 9, 1861, major First Cavalry. March 30, 1864, lieutenant-colonel Third Cavalry. July 28, 1866, colonel Twenty-first Infantry. September 1, 1866, honorably mustered out of active service for disability in line of duty. August 16, 1871, retired as colonel. September 15, 1882, resigned.

General Stoneman further received promotion and commission in the United States service as follows:

To the rank of colonel, December 13, 1862, for gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Fredericksburgh, Va.

To the rank of brigadier-general, March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services in the capture of Charlotte, N. C.

To the rank of major-general, March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services during the war.

His record as an officer in the volunteer service of the United States Army during the late rebellion was as follows: August 14, 1861, appointed brigadier-general; November 29, 1862, appointed major-general.

Previous to the date of his retirement with the rank of colonel as above stated, he had been ordered for examination before a board of distinguished officers and surgeons of the Army, of which board Major-General Schofield was president; and upon the recommendation of said board of army officers and surgeons he was, in consideration of his gallant and conspicuous services in the Army during the late rebellion, as well as in consideration of the disabilities received by him in that service during that period, recommended to be retired with the rank and pay of a major-general, and an order for that purpose was issued and promulgated by the Adjutant-General; but the said order retiring him with the rank and pay of a major-general was revoked by the President of the United States nineteen days after the same had been issued and promulgated by the Adjutant-General, and he was thereupon, on the 16th of August, 1871, retired from the Army with rank and pay of a colonel of infantry.

Subsequent to the time he was retired from the Army, as above stated, he became a citizen of the State of California, and he has continued to be a resident and citizen of said State from about the said last-mentioned date until the present time.

In the year 1882 he accepted the nomination of the Democratic party for the office of governor of the State of California, and was, in that year, elected to that office, and that while he was a candidate for said office, and while he yet held a commission as colonel on the retired list of the U. S. Army, he was officially notified by the Secretary of War that his election to and acceptance of the office of governor of the State of California would result in the forfeiture of the commission and rank which he held as a retired officer in the Army.

Acting upon said official notice received by him from the Secretary of War, he, on the 15th day of September, 1882, resigned his position as a colonel on the retired list of the U. S. Army, and since the expiration of his term as governor of the State of California he has continued to remain in civil life.

General Stoneman and others have grave doubts in regard to the construction placed by the Secretary of War upon the constitution of California in regard to his right to accept and hold the office of governor of his State while holding a commission on the retired list of the U. S. Army; but as he, out of deference to the official notice from the Secretary of War, resigned his commission, your committee believe it an act of justice that he be restored to his former rank on the retired list, and recommend the passage of the bill.